

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS

VOLUME 81, NUMBER 13

DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW FORMS OF
BIRDS FROM HISPANIOLA

BY

ALEXANDER WETMORE



(PUBLICATION 3021)

CITY OF WASHINGTON
PUBLISHED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
MAY 15, 1929

The Lord Baltimore Press
BALTIMORE, MD., U. S. A.

DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW FORMS OF BIRDS
FROM HISPANIOLA

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE

Continued studies of birds from Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the National Museum have brought to attention three geographic races found on small islands off the coast that differ sufficiently from the groups inhabiting the main island to merit subspecific distinction. In addition there has been found in the American Museum of Natural History a very distinct species of the peculiar genus *Calyptophilus* which is described here through the courtesy of Dr. Frank M. Chapman.

Family MNIOTILTIDAE

DENDROICA PETECHIA SOLARIS, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Dendroica petechia albicollis* (Gmelin)¹ but lighter in color; averaging slightly larger.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 278,738, male, collected at Z'Etroits, Gonave Island, Haiti, March 18, 1920, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Upper surface slightly brighter than pyrite yellow, rump brighter yellow; anterior portion of crown somewhat brighter than sulphine yellow, with concealed portions of feathers sudan brown; wings dusky, the feathers margined externally with sulphine yellow; wing-coverts pyrite yellow, edged with lemon chrome; rectrices dusky, lightly edged externally with sulphine yellow, with inner webs extensively lemon yellow; under surface between light cadmium and lemon chrome, with breast and sides streaked with sudan brown. Maxilla dusky neutral gray, mandible deep neutral gray, tarsus and toes dull brown (from dried skin).

Measurements (in millimeters).—Ten males, wing 64.2-68.0 (65.9), tail 50.0-57.0 (52.1), culmen from base 12.3-13.1 (12.8),² tarsus 20.5-21.5 (21.3).

Seven females, wing 61.3-63.2 (62.2), tail 48.1-51.0 (48.9), culmen from base 11.5-12.9 (12.2), tarsus 21.2-22.0 (21.4).

Type, male, wing 67.0, tail 57.0, culmen from base 12.5, tarsus 21.5.

¹ *Motacilla albicollis* Gmelin, Syst. Nat., vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 983. ("S. Dominici" = Hispaniola.)

² Average of nine.

Range.—Confined to Gonave Island, Haiti.

Remarks.—The present form shows approach to *Dendroica petechia* *coa* of Jamaica in size and in brighter coloration, but is less golden yellow, with the dark coloration of the anterior part of the crown rufescent rather than orange brown. Its differences from *albicollis*, easily apparent in series, are more plainly evident in females than in males.

Following are measurements of *Dendroica p. albicollis* for comparison:

Eighteen males, wing 59.3-64.5 (62.5), tail 47.3-53.0 (50.5), culmen from base 11.0-13.3 (12.6), tarsus 19.9-22.0 (21.0) mm.

Five females, wing 57.8-63.0 (60.3), tail 47.8-50.2 (49.2), culmen from base 11.2-13.2 (12.4), tarsus 19.8-21.0 (20.6) mm.

Family THRAUPIDAE

CALYPTOPHILUS TERTIUS, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Calyptophilus frugivorus frugivorus* Cory¹ but decidedly larger, with heavier bill; much darker in color; feathers encircling eyelids dark, instead of yellow; wings and tail rufescent.

Description.—American Museum of Natural History No. 166,421, male, from higher slopes of Morne La Hotte, Haiti, taken June 22, 1917, by R. H. Beck. Crown feathers centrally chaetura black, margined with grayish olive; sides of head chaetura drab; a spot of primuline yellow on lores, separated from eye by an area of dull black; hindneck, back and scapulars between deep and dark olive, shading back across rump to the bister of the upper tail-coverts; rectrices somewhat darker and more rufescent than warm sepia; remiges dusky brown, secondaries and inner primaries with external webs bister, outer primaries with external webs olive brown, and wing-coverts clove brown; edge of wing, with a wash of reed yellow; under wing-coverts mixed whitish and deep mouse gray; throat and center of breast white (more or less soiled); abdomen smoke gray; sides washed with deep mouse gray; flanks brownish olive; under tail-coverts bister. "Iris brown, bill black, horn below" (from collector's label); tarsi and feet bister (from dried skin).

Measurements (in millimeters).—Five males, wing 92.5-104.0 (98.9), tail 96.5-108.0 (101.2), culmen from base 23.7-27.4 (24.9), tarsus 32.5-35.0 (33.4).

¹*Phoenicophilus frugivorus* Cory, Quart. Journ. Boston Zoöl. Soc., October, 1883, p. 45. ("Santo Domingo" = Rivas, D. R.)

Two females, wing 84.4-91.5 (88.0), tail 83.9-89.0 (86.5), culmen from base 22.8-23.6 (23.2), tarsus 30.8-31.1 (31.0).

Type, male, wing 100.0, tail 100.2, culmen from base 24.5, tarsus 32.8.

Range.—Known only from the higher slopes of Morne La Hotte, Haiti.

Remarks.—The series of seven *Calyptophilus* in the American Museum of Natural History, collected by R. H. Beck from June 20 to July 4, 1917, back of Les Anglais on the higher ridges that lead up to the peak of Morne La Hotte, are so distinct in larger size and darker coloration from *Calyptophilus frugivorus* of the rest of the island that there is no question in assigning them specific rank. The new form seemingly is confined to the higher slopes of the mountain range of La Hotte, since during extensive collecting elsewhere it has not been found. It is another of the peculiar mountain forms of Hispaniola whose presence has been wholly unexpected.

This new species is described here through the kind permission of Dr. Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History.

PHAENICOPHILUS PALMARUM EUROUS, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Phaenicophilus palmarum palmarum* (Linnaeus)¹ but lighter in color: above brighter green, with gray of hind-neck lighter, becoming nearly white on sides of neck anteriorly; below with white more extended.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 252,843, male, taken on Saona Island, Dominican Republic, September 13, 1919, by Dr. W. L. Abbott (in somewhat worn plumage). Crown and entire sides of head jet black, except for a spot on either side of the forehead, one above either eye, and the lower eyelid, which are white; hindneck, and sides a little paler than gray no. 7, the former becoming white at posterior border of black covering the ear-coverts; upper surface, including exposed portions of wing and tail feathers, between pyrite yellow and warbler green; concealed portions of remiges dusky; median underparts including the under tail-coverts extensively white; under wing-coverts smoke gray edged with white. Bill black, base of lower mandible dark dull grayish; tarsus dusky neutral gray (from dried skin).

Measurements (in millimeters).—Type specimen, male, wing, 90.0, tail, 67.5, culmen from base, 20.7, tarsus, 22.5.

¹ *Turdus palmarum* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 295. ("Habitat in Cayennae Palmis" = Hispaniola.)

Range.—Restricted to Saona Island, Dominican Republic.

Remarks.—Though occasional birds in a considerable series of the palm tanager from the main island of Hispaniola approach in coloration the single skin at hand from Saona, none is quite so extensively white below, or so bright and light a green above, so that it seems permissible to name a Saona form on the basis of this scanty material.

Family FRINGILLIDAE

LOXIGILLA VIOLACEA MAURELLA, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Generally similar to *Loxigilla violacea affinis* (Ridgway)¹ but larger, with heavier bill.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 250,456, Tortue Island, Haiti, collected February 2, 1917, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Throat, short line above eye, and under tail-coverts somewhat darker than burnt sienna; axillars and under wing-coverts partly burnt sienna and white mixed; plumage otherwise deep black. Bill, feet, and tarsi black (from dried skin).

Measurements (in millimeters).—Three males, wing 82.4-84.3 (83.4), tail 70.2-71.9 (71.2), culmen from base 16.2-16.8 (16.4), depth of bill at base 12.9-13.8 (13.3), tarsus 22.1-22.8 (22.4).

One female, wing 77.7, tail 65.8, culmen from base 15.5, depth of bill at base 11.9, tarsus 22.9.

Type, male, wing 82.4, tail 71.9, culmen from base 16.8, depth of bill at base 13.8, tarsus 22.8.

Range.—Known only from Tortue Island, Haiti.

Remarks.—The greater size of the present form is more plainly evident on direct comparison of skins from Tortue with those from Hispaniola proper than from examination of the measurement tables, *maurella* being very appreciably larger and more robust. The only female seen is blacker than the majority of *affinis*. The new form is represented by three males and one female, all collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott, February 1 and 2, 1917.

Following are measurements of *L. v. affinis* for comparison:

Sixteen males, wing 71.9-79.2 (76.7), tail 61.7-69.3 (65.3), culmen from base 14.2-16.5 (15.2), depth of bill at base 11.0-12.9 (12.3), tarsus 19.2-23.4 (21.1) mm.

Nine females, wing 67.2-75.8 (71.2), tail 59.8-67.0 (63.5), culmen from base 12.6-14.3 (13.6)² depth of bill at base 10.4-11.8 (10.9), tarsus 19.7-22.3 (21.0) mm.

¹ *Pyhrrulagra affinis* "(Baird)" Ridgway, Auk, 1898, p. 322. (Port-au-Prince, Haiti.)

² Average of eight.